

Amendments to the Specification

On the first page of the specification, please add the following paragraph before the line that reads "TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION":

The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/290,508, filed April 12, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,408,272, issued June 18, 2002.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 28, line 21, and ending at page 29, line 2, as follows:

Figure [[2]] 3 illustrates details for a local device 14, according to an embodiment of the present invention. As depicted, local device 14 comprises a primary functionality component 19, a microphone 20, a speaker 22, a manual input device 24, a display 26, a processing component 28, a recording device 30, and a transceiver 32.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 36, line 22, and ending at page 37, line 7, as follows:

Figure [[3]] 4 illustrates details for a remote system 12, according to an embodiment of the present invention. Remote system 12 may cooperate with local devices 14 to provide a distributed VUI for communication with respective users and to generate control signals for controlling respective primary functionality components 19. As depicted, remote system 12 comprises a transceiver 50, a LAN connector 52, a

processing component 54, a memory 56, and a WAN connector 58. Depending on the combination of local devices 14 supported by remote system 12, only one of the following may be required, with the other two optional: transceiver 50, LAN connector 52, or WAN connector 58.

Please amend the paragraph at page 43, lines 12-13, as follows:

Figure [[4]] 5 is a flow diagram of an exemplary method 100 of operation for a local device 14, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 46, lines 21-22, as follows:

Figure [[5]] 6 is a flow diagram of an exemplary method 200 of operation for remote system 12, according to an embodiment of the present invention.